Tape Reveals Red Ties

Own Words Brand Oswald

By SAL PERROTTA
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

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Accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was pictured today, by his own words released here, as "a capable, articulate and proficiently trained individual for the Communist cause."

The description was made by Edward Scannell Butler, executive vice president of the Information Council of the Americas (INCA), who yesterday publicly disclosed a tape recording of an interview with Oswald in New Orleans three months before the assassination.

The unedited tape, played only previously for the Warren Commission, revealed Oswald's close Communist ties with Cuba and his political philosophies.

"Whether he was self-taught or professionally trained through propaganda is something only further investigation will tell," said Butler whose organization is

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headquartered in New Orleans.

Butler, who debated with Oswald in August, 1963—after the tape was made—on Oswald's link with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) said he was anxious to "get as many people as possible to hear Oswald (on the tape) so they'll know what he was like."

He said that a strong possibility existed that Oswald was a Cuban trained agent "as evidenced by the fact that the only person who stood to gain in President Kennedy's death was Fidel Castro."

Butler theorizes that Castro-inspired propaganda, particularly of the variety distributed by Oswald and the FPCC in New Orleans, "served to incite the assassination."

FERRIE CONTACT

The New Orleans executive also focused some attention on the current investigation in his home city. He said that free lance pilot David W. Ferrie, a figure in the investigation found dead Wednesday, tried to contact him after the assassination "to vindicate himself."

"I was in Washington and my wife spoke to him. He said that he wasn't guilty of a crime and had been unjustly associated with Oswald. I never heard from him again or about him until last December when the New Orleans District Attorney's office asked me if I knew of his whereabouts."

In the tape recording, Oswald was questioned concerning how long the Fair Play for Cuba Committee had been organized in New Orleans. He answered:

"We have had members in this area for several months now. Up until about two months ago, however, we have not organized our members into any sort of active group until, as you say, we had decided to feel out the public; what they think of our organization, our aims, and for that purpose we have been distributing literature on the streets trying to attract new members."

Oswald wnet on to say that as secretary of the committee he was responsible for keeping records and "protection of the members' names, so that undue publicity or attention" would not be drawn to them.

Oswald pointed out emphatically he did not then belong to any other organization, that he was devoting his time exclusively to the FPCC. He indicated that he was not yet convinced that Castro was a Communist.

"He has not had a chance to become a Communist," said Oswald. "He is an experimenter, a person who is trying to find the best way for his country. If he chooses a Socialist or a Marxist or a Communist way of life that is something on which only the Cuban people can pass."

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In reply to whether he felt capitalism in any form would again have a place in Cuba, Oswald replied:

". . . Cuba is irrevocably lost as far as capitalism goes and there will never be a capitalist regime again in Cuba. It may go the way of China, in other words, a dogmatic Communist system; that depends on how we handle the matter here in the United States."

The tape recording, which Butler said was turned over yesterday to New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, also included Oswald's belief that a world trend was developing toward "imperialistic dominated countries adopting socialist solutions — Marxism even, on occasion."

Oswald was asked if he thought the United States ever wanted to help Castro. He replied:

"True to our democratic principles, certain policies were adopted, very late, but adopted, that the government help Fidel Castro, while he was still in the mountains. We cut off aid to Batista just before the revolution, but just before it. That was too late. We had already done more harm than we could have done before.